

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00

AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02

OMB-01 DOE-15 /124 W

-----069805 102057Z /70

R 100831Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6922

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 06069

USMTN

ALSO PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MTN, JA

SUBJECT: BARREDA-IKEDA DISCUSSION ON MTN

1. ASSISTANT STR BARREDA PAID COURTESY CALL ON M. IKEDA, DIRECTOR GATT DIVISION, MARCH 6. MOST OF DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED TO MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON KEEPING THE MTN MOVING TOWARD CONCLUSION THIS SUMMER. BOTH PARTIES AGREED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT, BUT RENEWED PLEDGES TO TRY.

2. IKEDA DECLINED TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS OF TARIFF OFFERS AND RESPONSES, BUT EXPRESSED DISMAY AT U.S. REQUEST TO JAPAN TO LIBERALIZE LEATHER PRODUCTS. HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS ONE OF JAPAN'S MOST SENSITIVE INDUSTRIAL SECTORS AND THAT U.S. FOCUS ON IT INDICATED A LACK OF EMPATHY FOR JAPANESE SOCIAL PROBLEMS. BARREDA RESPONDED THAT LEATHER WAS A POLITICAL PROBLEM AREA IN THE U.S. AND HAD TO BE INCLUDED. HE REMARKED THAT HE WAS SURE JAPAN WOULD INCLUDE TEXTILES IN ITS REQUEST,

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WHICH ACCORDING TO OUR INDUSTRY, IS A MAJOR EMPLOYER OF AMERICAN MINORITIES. IKEDA LAUGHED AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE.

3. IKEDA PREDICTED THERE WOULD ALSO BE SOME PROBLEMS WITH U.S. REQUESTS ON FISH PRODUCTS AND BEEF QUOTAS BUT, HE SAID, OVERALL THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WERE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

4. ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, IKEDA ARGUED THAT JAPANESE METHODS WERE BASICALLY DIFFERENT THAN MOST COUNTRIES. JAPAN, HE NOTED, COULD AGREE TO SEVERAL PROPOSALS, BUT THEY WOULD NOT CHANGE THE FINAL RESULT BECAUSE GOJ PROCUREMENT IS COMPLETELY DECENTRALIZED. HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTED, "PERHAPS YOU (U.S.) COULD ASK FOR A CENTRAL INFORMATION CENTER WHERE ALL PROCUREMENT INFORMATION WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE." BARREDA AGREED THIS COULD BE A USEFUL SUGGESTION.

5. IKEDA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE CREATION OF BARREDA'S POSITION WITHIN STR SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH FOLLOWING JAPANESE DEVELOPMENTS AND PROMISED THE COOPERATION OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: TRADE, LEATHER, TEXTILES, NEGOTIATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: ETRD, JA, US, MTN
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